



Date: November 4, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending November 4, 2005

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending November 4, 2005. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP #9

Personal Preparedness: Be in the Know! Five Days of Self-Reliance!

Utilities: The ability to locate and operate utility shutoffs will increase safety and reduce property damage in a disaster situation.

Natural Gas Leaks

- Natural gas leaks can cause an explosive and flammable atmosphere inside a building.
- Know where the shutoff valve is located. It is usually located near the gas meter on the exterior of your home or building.
- If you smell gas, shut off the main valve and open all windows and doors.
- An indicator of a gas leak is if the unmarked wheels on the gas meter are spinning.

For previous tips and a complete guide to planning and preparation for an emergency, visit www.longbeach.gov.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

On October 29, the City's Community Forum on Disaster Preparedness was held at the Long Beach Convention Center. Over 40 organizations showcased their disaster response resources and capabilities, as well as numerous tabletop displays. The public had the opportunity to meet with the City's experienced first-responders, and received safety information for homes and workplaces. The event also included a video and presentation by 18 City Departments and supporting local organizations.

Long Beach Gas & Oil staff provided the attendees with information on carbon monoxide prevention, the safe use of gas, steps to take during an earthquake, the proper installation of water heaters, and briefed attendees on energy saving tips.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

On October 29 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Olive Court Condominium development located at 1856 Long Beach Boulevard. Olive Court will offer 58 for-sale housing units, including 44 units affordable to very low-, low-, and moderate-income homebuyers, and 14 units available to market-rate buyers. The event was well attended by area residents and prospective homebuyers. Elected officials, and board members from both the Long Beach Housing Development Company and Livable Places, the nonprofit developer, were also present. Construction of the project is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2007.

Harbor Department

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has furthered its commitment to enhancing the environment, voting preliminary approval for a \$2.2 million-a-year Green Flag Incentive Program to recognize ships and to reward fleet operators for reducing vessel speed to improve air quality.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On October 29 more than 1,000 residents of the Washington School Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area attended a Halloween Carnival at the 14th Street Park. Neighborhood Services Bureau staff, the Washington School Neighborhood Association, the Long Beach Rescue Mission and the Substance Abuse Foundation coordinated the event. Firefighters from Station 3 and the West Division Community Policing team painted the faces of more than 100 children. This will become an annual event for the neighborhood.

Community Development

On October 22, several of the Hurricane Katrina families that have relocated to the City were treated to a trip to the *Carl Lewis 5th Annual International Track & Field Camp and Festival*. The trip, coordinated by two staff members, was held at the Home Depot Center. Families were given VIP treatment and met nine-time Olympic Gold Medalist Carl Lewis as well as many other former Olympians.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

David S. White, Redevelopment Project Officer for the City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency, will provide residents with an educational presentation on the role of redevelopment and what it means to live in a redevelopment project area on **Thursday, November 10, 2005** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Avenue.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The Neighborhood Resource Center will host a workshop featuring the *Long Beach Police Department's Office of Community Oriented Public Safety (COPS)* on **Monday, November 14** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 425 Atlantic Avenue. Residents can learn about changes in the police department and other programs available to increase your public safety. For more information or to RSVP, call 570.1010 or e-mail JoAnn_Rojas@longbeach.gov.

Library Services

New Exhibits at Main Library

Southern California's Grandma Moses: Paintings and drawings by Kate Pedigo. Kate Pedigo paints folk art based on her long life of 93 years.

Lobby Gallery, **November 1 – December 30.**

"Meet the Artist" reception on Saturday, November 12th from 3-5 p.m.

Long Beach Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America Inc. Celebrates the Holidays: Different styles of embroidery decorate articles for celebrating Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Kwanza and Christmas.

Lower level gallery, **November 1 – December 30.**

Public Works

Mobility-21 4th Annual Countywide Transportation Summit – The Fourth Annual Countywide Transportation Summit for Mobility 21 will be held in Long Beach on Monday, November 14 at the Long Beach Convention Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mobility-21 is a countywide effort to bring together elected officials, transportation providers, businesses, local municipalities, labor and community leaders to develop solutions to the transportation issues facing Los Angeles County and is led by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in partnership with the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Police -Save the Date

The current Police Academy class is scheduled to graduate on November 30.

AWARDS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On November 2, Superintendent of Youth Services Cynthia Fogg and Commission on Youth and Children Co-Chair Pierre Batton attended the American Street Festival in Washington, D.C. as part of the celebration for Long Beach being named as one of America's Promise 100 Best Communities for Young People. At the event, the city was awarded \$20,000 in honor of its work helping victims, especially children, affected by Hurricane Katrina. Officials estimate more than 100 families relocated to Long Beach. The award was presented by the nonprofit America's Promise-Alliance for Youth organization, which earlier this year named Long Beach one of the nation's 100 best communities for children.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Batts announced Commander rotations that will become effective November 24. The Commanders who will be rotated are noted in italics below:

| Commander | Assignment |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Gary Richens</i> | <i>Detectives</i> |
| <i>Keith Kilmer</i> | <i>Communications</i> |
| <i>J.J. Craig</i> | <i>Field Support Division</i> |
| <i>William Blair</i> | <i>Chief of Staff</i> |
| <i>Torben Beith</i> | <i>Patrol South</i> |
| <i>Laura Farinella</i> | <i>Patrol East</i> |
| <i>Billy Quach</i> | <i>Patrol West</i> |
| <i>Greg Allison</i> | <i>Training</i> |
| Jeff Johnson | Youth Services |
| Frank McCoy | Internal Affairs |
| Scott Robertson | Patrol North |
| Jay Johnson | Gangs and Violent Crimes |

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,471 emergency calls for service: 157 calls for fires, of which 20 involved structures; and 721 emergency medical calls, of which 491 required paramedics.

Police

Citywide, Police Officers responded to 672 priority one, 1,528 priority two and 1,248 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,448 calls.

On October 26, as a result of an increase in street robberies, the North Division began a task force that will operate on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights for a period of four weeks. Target areas were identified through the review of crime reports, calls for service, and crime analysis, and include Atlantic Avenue between Market Street and Artesia Boulevard and South Street between Cherry Avenue and Paramount Boulevard.

The East Division was experiencing a rise in street robberies, which prompted proactive enforcement in the form of an undercover grand theft bicycle sting operation. During the operation plain-clothes officers conducted surveillance on a decoy bicycle and made four arrests.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

New colored concrete was poured in the entry plaza at Blair Field. The dugout handrails are being fabricated this week, and replacement of window glass is 70 percent complete in the locker rooms.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Public Works

The concrete and asphalt path for the downtown bike path has been completed from the LARIO Trail (along the Los Angeles River) through the north end of Cesar E. Chavez Park, under 6th Street, and along 7th Street to Magnolia Ave. Irrigation installation is being completed to prepare for landscaping adjacent to the bike path.

The rough electrical is complete for lighting of the new Grace Park, at the corner of Plymouth Street and Elm Avenue. Curbs and gutters are complete on the Plymouth Street side, and irrigation laterals have been installed.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On October 31, approximately 400 residents of the Cherry-Temple Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area attended the 4th Annual Halloween Carnival at Orizaba Park. Neighborhood Services Bureau staff, the West East Side Neighborhood Association and Parks, Recreation and Marine staff organized the event. The festivities included face painting, pumpkin decorating, costume creation, a jumper and a variety of games for the children to enjoy. This event was largely supported by donations from the business owners in the area.

Community Development, Diversity & Economic Opportunity Division

City staff and other Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Workforce Diversity Committee members hosted the Second Annual Diversity Breakfast held at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel on October 26 in recognition of *National Cultural Diversity Month*. The theme of the event was "Building Business Together: Strategies for the 21st Century - Leveraging Diversity for Your Organization's Success." A renowned list of panelists participated and 160 people attended. The Diversity and Economic Opportunity Division exhibited.

Health and Human Services

DHHS held its second family-centered health education forum entitled *Growing a Healthy Family* on October 29. This event is part of a monthly series that provides free educational programs to the community. The forum provided information on effective parenting, how to communicate with children, how to stop unwanted behavior in children, time management, and information on available after-school programs. Translation services were provided in Spanish and Khmer.

Fire

On October 19, Long Beach Fire Ambassadors and Engine 13 visited Muir Elementary to teach third grade students the importance of fire safety. On October 26, the Ambassadors worked with third grade students at McArthur Elementary. On November 1, Ambassadors and Engine 14 visited Lowell Elementary. On November 2, Ambassadors and Engine 18 taught fire safety to third grade students at Emerson Elementary. Students at all four schools went through the Fire Safety House.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Fire

On October 21, Fire Station 17 took their Engine to Buffum Elementary for a Show-and-Tell. The Firefighters answered questions about the Fire Service and showed students what tools and equipment are carried on the Fire Engine.

Long Beach Gas & Oil

Gas prices are expected to increase during the winter months. Use the following heating conservations tips to save money and energy:

- Have your furnace and air conditioning system serviced by a qualified contractor.
- Install a programmable thermostat to regulate your home's temperature automatically.
- Weather-strip and caulk drafty doors.
- Lower the setting on your water-heater thermostat below 120 F.
- Don't heat unused rooms in your house.
- Try to keep closet doors shut.
- Wear a hat. Your head is the biggest source of body heat loss.
- Keep extra blankets available.
- Open shades and blinds on sunny days to warm residence naturally.
- Close shades and blinds at night to reduce heat loss.
- DO NOT USE a cooking stove or oven to heat your home.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On Monday, October 31, over 3,500 youth and parents enjoyed safe, fun, and active Halloween Carnivals at 14 local park sites. Participants enjoyed game booths, costume contests, pumpkin decorating contests, gift giveaways, face painting, cakewalk contests, arts and craft stations, haunted houses, and much more.

On October 31, Orizaba Park in partnership with the West-East Side Community Association (W.E.S.C.A), Community Development, Long Beach Police Department, and neighboring businesses hosted their 3rd Annual Halloween Carnival "Horrorizaba." The carnival featured a number of game booths, arts and crafts, face painting, a jumper, and tons of prizes and candy. Approximately 1,500 people attended the Horrorizaba Carnival.

This week, the Long Beach Recreation On-Campus sites: Bethune, Burnett, Lincoln, Whittier, Starr King, Burbank, and Stevenson Schools; the Long Beach WRAP (Winners Reaching Amazing Potential) programs at Garfield, Hudson, and Lee Elementary Schools; and the Long Beach Senior Center and El Dorado Senior Center held various Halloween festivities with a total of over 750 participants.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fire

On October 31, Long Beach Fire Department Kid's Program volunteers visited children at Miller Children's Hospital for its annual Halloween program. Firefighters dressed up in costumes and took the children trick-or-treating within the hospital.

Police

Twenty-three students participated in the *Chief for a Day* contest. Eligible students submitted a one-page essay on how they have prepared themselves for a career in law enforcement and what they would hope to learn from the experience. The winners are: Andrew Arellano, junior, Lakewood High School; Adam Sturgeon, senior, California State University Long Beach; and Lydia Michelle Reyes, a Business and Technology student at the Long Beach Job Corps Center. Each of the winners will be busy on Monday, November 7, when they become *Chief* for the day.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events

The Haute Dog Howl'oween Parade, with an estimated attendance of 2,500, was held in Belmont Shore on October 30.

Shipwreck 2005, at the Queen Mary, had an overall attendance of approximately 70,000, between October 7 and November 1.

MTV Networks, with a cast and crew of 15, filmed a TV production "Date My Mom 3" at the Lighthouse at Rainbow Lagoon on November 2.

Warner Brothers, with a cast and crew of 100, filmed a feature "The Good German" at El Dorado Park East on November 4.

Original Productions, with a cast and a crew of 30, will be filming "Monster Garage" at various locations in Long Beach throughout November.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Harbor

The Port of Long Beach web site, www.polb.com, has been re-launched and re-designed with easy-to-use navigation buttons, an *E-Inform* news subscription service and a calendar of events. With the new navigational tools, the community can quickly learn about harbor tours and the Green Port Plan. Those doing business with the Port can easily find information on the Small Business Program, and the maritime industry can get a copy of the Port tariff.

Visit www.polb.com to sign up for *E-Inform* email updates on the latest happenings at the Port.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

Staff completed a total of 3,452 service calls. This total included 848 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 751 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,538 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 315 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 679 emergency phone calls that resulted in 158 emergency orders being sent out.

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570-5160

Anaheim St. Alamitos Ave to St. Louis Ave.

Clark Ave. Spring St. to Wardlow Rd.

Estimated Completion: November 2005

Del Amo Blvd. Los Angeles River to Long Beach Blvd.

Artesia Blvd. West of Long Beach Blvd. to Harbor St.

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.

Cherry Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

7th Street Junipero Avenue and Redondo Avenue

Estimated Completion: December 2005

Long Beach Water, Alley Service Lateral Conversion

Contact: 570. 2326

Cedar Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Chestnut Ave. E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

Pasadena Ave. E. Burnett St. to Pacific Electric Railroad

Linden Ave. E. Burnett St. to 25th Way

Estimated Completion: April 2006

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
 Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
 Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
 City Manager Department Heads
 Tom Modica, Manager of Government Affairs
 Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager